

What is claimed is:

1. A toy percussion instrument, comprising:
an instrument body;
5 a striker for striking the instrument body to produce a sound; and
a tether connecting the striker to the instrument body;
wherein the tether has one end connected to the instrument body
at a body attachment location, and an opposite end connected to the
striker at a striker attachment location, the striker attachment location
10 being spaced inwardly from the ends of the striker.
2. A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 1, wherein the striker
attachment location is spaced inwardly from the ends of the striker by at
least one fifth the length of the striker.
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3. A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 1, wherein the striker
attachment location is spaced inwardly from the ends of the striker by at
least one fourth the length of the striker.
- 20 4. A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 3, wherein the striker has
a rounded striker end portion and an opposite handle end portion.
5. A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 4, wherein two said
strikers and tethers are provided, and the respective body attachment
25 locations are located on the same side of the instrument body.
6. A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 5, wherein the
instrument body has a drumming surface surrounded by a peripheral wall,
and the striker attachment location is spaced inwardly from the striker end
30 of the striker by a distance about equal the distance between the
respective body attachment location and the center of the drumming
surface.
7. A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 6, wherein the body
35 attachment locations are located on the peripheral wall at the same or
about the same location.

8. A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 7, wherein the instrument body has the shape of an animal.
- 5 9. A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 8, wherein the animal shape is that of a turtle and the drumming surface forms at least a part of the turtle's shell.
- 10 10. A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 9, wherein the combined length of the tethers and any spacing between the body attachment locations is no greater than about 14 inches.
- 15 11. A toy percussion instrument, comprising:
an instrument body having a drumming surface;
a striker for striking the instrument body to produce a sound; and
a tether connecting the striker to the instrument body;
wherein the tether has one end connected to the instrument body at a body attachment location adjacent the drumming surface, and an opposite end connected to the striker at a striker attachment location, the striker attachment location being spaced inwardly from the striker end of the striker by a distance about equal the distance between the body attachment location and a center of the drumming surface.
- 20 12. A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 11, wherein two said strikers and tethers are provided, and the combined length of the tethers and any spacing between the body attachment locations is no greater than about 14 inches.
- 25 13. A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 12, wherein each striker has a rounded striker end portion and an opposite handle end portion.
- 30 14. A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 12, wherein the body attachment locations are located on the same side of the instrument body.

15. A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 11, wherein two said strikers and tethers are provided, and the body attachment locations are located at the same or about the same location.
- 5 16. A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 11, wherein the instrument body has the shape of an animal.
- 10 17. A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 16, wherein the animal shape is that of a turtle and the drumming surface forms at least a part of the turtle's shell.
18. A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 11, wherein the striker has a rounded striker end portion and an opposite handle end portion.
- 15 19. A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 18, wherein two said strikers and tethers are provided, and the body attachment locations are located at the same or about the same location.
- 20 20. A toy percussion instrument as set forth in claim 11, wherein the instrument body is in the form of at least one of an animal, a drum and a xylophone.
- 25 21. A toy, comprising:
a main unit;
an implement for use with the main unit; and
a tether connecting the implement to the main unit, the tether having one end connected to the main unit at a respective main unit attachment location, and an opposite end connected to the implement at an implement attachment location, and the implement attachment location being spaced inwardly from the ends of the implement, thereby
30 to allow a shorter tether to be used while still allowing the implement to be used without difficulty.
- 35 22. A toy, comprising:
a main unit having a play area with a center;

an implement manipulable by a child in relation to the play area of the main unit; and

a tether connecting the implement to the main unit;

5 wherein the tether has one end connected to the implement at a main unit attachment location, and an opposite end connected to the implement at an implement attachment location, the implement attachment location being spaced inwardly from a non-handle end of the implement by a distance about equal the distance between the main unit attachment location and the center of the play area.